

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 821

By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Bettie Kirk Wilson of Johnson City.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Bettie Kirk Wilson, a distinguished health services professional and pharmacist; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Wilson began her long and proficient tenure with Mountain States Health Alliance (MSHA) in 1966; at the time of her retirement in 2009, she was System Services Director for all MSHA Hospital Pharmacies in Tennessee and Virginia and had amassed forty-three years of service; and

WHEREAS, during her illustrious career, she served as vice president and president of the Tennessee Board of Pharmacy and was active in the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy and the Tennessee Pharmacy Association; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Ms. Wilson was named Hospital Pharmacist of the Year by the Tennessee Society of Health System Pharmacists in 1998; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Wilson was a stalwart supporter of efforts to bring a College of Pharmacy to East Tennessee State University, and she was the first chairperson of the College of Pharmacy's Admissions Committee and served on its Board of Visitors; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, the Bettie Wilson Leadership Scholarship Endowment was established at the Bill Gatton College of Pharmacy at East Tennessee State University to honor her service to the college and leadership in the field of pharmacy; and

WHEREAS, after retirement, she continued to serve her community as a member of the Mountain States Foundation Board of Trustees and was awarded Emeritus status in 2013; she was also a founding member of the Niswonger Children's Hospital Kite Society; and

WHEREAS, the daughter of the late Nelle Moody Kirk and Guy Robert Kirk and a native of Huntingdon, Tennessee, Ms. Wilson was a 1965 graduate of the University of Tennessee College of Pharmacy, Memphis, where she was valedictorian of her class; and

WHEREAS, she was a voracious reader who often read a novel in one night and possessed a lifelong love of learning and a quick wit; and

WHEREAS, Bettie Kirk Wilson's integrity, strength of character, wisdom, and style will be missed by her beloved family, friends, and colleagues; and

WHEREAS, this remarkable lady is survived by her daughter, Ellen Wilson Offutt, and her husband, Perry, and two grandchildren, James and Caroline, to whom she was their adored "Bebe"; and

WHEREAS, Bettie Kirk Wilson leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember this exceptional human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Bettie Kirk Wilson, reflecting fondly upon her impeccable character, her stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction, and her exemplary career in health care as a pharmacist and administrator.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Bettie Kirk Wilson.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.